

# WWI vet was a 'quiet man'

By STEVE DONOVAN, CLIPPER CONTRIBUTOR

**M**ichael James Glynn was the father of Rev. Msgr. William Glynn, who purchased a brick at the World War One Memorial in his father's memory. Many in Duxbury know Rev. Msgr. Glynn from his years of work as a priest at Holy Family Church.

## THE MONUMENT BRICKS

Bricks for Memories; each brick suggests a story and helps to provide the funding to rebuild and refurbish a once lost Duxbury monument. The monument lists those from Duxbury who served their nation in World War One. The bricks bear the names and sentiments of others, some once in uniform, some still in uniform, some who served their loved ones in other ways and all of them recognized for and by those they touched.

If you purchased a brick in someone's memory, call and let us tell the story your gift hints at. The bricks series is written by Steve Donovan. He can be reached at 781-837-7782.

Michael James Glynn was born in 1890 on his family's farm in Abbyknockmoy village and parish in County Galway, Ireland. Abbyknockmoy is known for the nearby ruins of the 12th century Cistercian Abbey, established with the Kings of Connacht as its benefactors. The Abbey was the burial site of King Cathal Crobhdearg Ua Conchobair and contains fine examples of medieval wall paintings and sculpture. It was formerly part of the kingdom

of the Soghain of Connacht.

The Glynn farmhouse still exists, although the agricultural fields that surrounded it have been sold. The farmhouse has continually been occupied by Glynn family members and today is the home of Christopher Glynn, a cousin of Rev. Msgr. William Glynn.

Michael Glynn immigrated to the United States in 1911 and originally settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Michael married Mary Hurley and later they moved with their four children from Cambridge to Dorchester. There they lived in two successive homes before finally moving to Dorchester Lower Mills and purchasing a three family home. The Glynn family lived on one level and rented the other two.

Michael and Mary Glynn proudly witnessed two of their sons join the Catholic priesthood. William's career brought him to Duxbury while his brother Jack would join the U.S. Navy and serve as a Bishop in Vietnam.

Like many who lived in the city at that time, the Glynn family used the Boston Elevated Rail Road for years to get around the city. In 1950 Father William Glynn would become the first in his family to purchase an automobile.

Michael Glynn was employed by the Boston Elevated Rail Road his entire working life. His worked as a driver on the Fields Corner to Harvard Square route which, in later years, was extended from



Michael James Glynn

Harvard Square to Ashmont. Elevated drivers worked long hours at fairly low pay but he was finally able to retire at the age of sixty-three.

Michael Glynn retired on May 1, 1953. That afternoon, after finishing his last run, he walked home to find that his wife Mary had died that same day.

Father Glynn describes his father, Michael, as a "quiet man." He never spoke of his military service in World War One. He knows that his father enlisted and served in France after war was declared in 1917 but, beyond the visual evidence of a photograph showing him in uniform, no other record was kept or even discussed.

Rev. Msgr. Glynn is now the only surviving member of his immediate family. His sister, Mary, and brothers, Jim and Jack, are gone.

His father, Michael James Glynn, died in 1969 as quietly as he had lived.